

Fact Sheet

Groundwater Impact at Gun Club Road Landfill

The City of Atlanta (City) owns the Gun Club Road Landfill located within the city limits of Atlanta, in Fulton County, Georgia, approximately six miles west of downtown Atlanta. The landfill was closed in 1998 in accordance with the State of Georgia Environmental Protection Division (EPD) requirements. The City is performing maintenance activities at the landfill as required by the EPD, which includes the collection of groundwater samples from 16 monitoring wells at the landfill. Test data from one well indicate the chemical vinyl chloride is present in groundwater at concentrations slightly above the EPD regulatory standard of 2 parts per billion.

Vinyl chloride was detected in groundwater 30 feet below the land surface; therefore, there is no risk to residents in the vicinity of the landfill. This depth is too great for residents to accidentally contact or drink the water. However, the EPD requires the City to develop a plan (Assessment of Corrective Measures [ACM]) to address the impacts to the groundwater below the landfill.

The EPD also requires that the City to hold a public meeting to discuss the findings of the ACM. The meeting will be held on April 28, 2005, at 6:30 p.m. at Ben Carson Middle School, which is located at 1890 Donald Lee Hollowell Parkway, NW, Atlanta.

For more information, please contact the Department of Public Works at 404-330-6240, view the Dept. of Public Works website at www.atlantaga.gov/Government/PublicWorks.aspx, and attend the public meeting.

Frequently Asked Questions

Which City department is responsible for the Landfill?

The City of Atlanta, Department of Public Works.

What is the Environmental Protection Division (EPD)?

The EPD is the State of Georgia regulatory agency that helps provide Georgia citizens with a clean environment by assuring compliance with environmental laws.

What is vinyl chloride?

Vinyl chloride is a chemical commonly used to make plastic pipes (such as polyvinyl chloride [PVC]) and as an adhesive for joining plastic.

How was the vinyl chloride discovered?

The vinyl chloride was detected during groundwater monitoring activities at the landfill. Vinyl chloride was originally detected in two monitoring wells in 1998. Since 2002, vinyl chloride has been detected only in one well.

What is a monitoring well?

A monitoring well is any well for which the primary purpose is to collect data to evaluate groundwater quality and flow direction.

What happened after the vinyl chloride was detected?

- Additional testing was performed.
- Statistical analyses were performed.
- Additional monitoring wells were installed.
- Finally, an ACM was conducted.

What is the ACM?

The ACM is a process for determining whether low level concentrations of vinyl chloride in groundwater beneath the landfill is a risk to neighboring residents and what, if any, additional actions are needed to keep residents near the landfill safe.

Where was the vinyl chloride detected?

The vinyl chloride was detected in monitoring well GC-GWC-7, which is located in the northeast portion of the landfill property at a depth of 30 feet below the ground surface.

Does the vinyl chloride pose a risk to residents near the landfill?

No. Vinyl chloride was detected in groundwater 30 feet below the land surface; therefore, there is no risk to residents in the vicinity of the landfill. This depth is too great for residents to accidentally contact or drink the water.

Can the vinyl chloride get into our drinking water?

There is no risk that the vinyl chloride could contaminate the drinking water supply because the City of Atlanta Department of Watershed Management supplies treated drinking water from the Chattahoochee River to residents near the landfill. The drinking water is not obtained from groundwater beneath the landfill.

Has vinyl chloride or any other chemical been found previously in the landfill?

Yes. However, based on the most recent sampling results, only vinyl chloride was detected at concentrations above the EPD regulatory standard.

How does the City plan to address this finding?

The City recommends monitored natural attenuation (MNA) as the remedy to restore groundwater quality to levels below the EPD regulatory standard for vinyl chloride. MNA is a passive technology that relies on naturally occurring bacteria to breakdown chemicals into non-harmful byproducts. Test data collected from the site indicate that the breakdown of vinyl chloride is occurring in groundwater beneath the site and that vinyl chloride concentrations should decrease to levels below the EPD regulatory standard in 3 years or less. The EPD concurs with these findings.

Are there any precautions I need to take?

No. The vinyl chloride in the groundwater beneath the landfill does not pose a risk to residents.

When is the public meeting?

The meeting will be held on April 28, 2005, at 6:30 p.m. at Ben Carson Middle School at 1890 Donald Lee Hollowell Parkway, NW, Atlanta.

Who should I contact for more information?

The City of Atlanta, Department of Public Works at 404-330-6240.